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Essential Belief Statement.

It wasn’t the easiest decision for me to choose teaching as a profession. When I started looking at colleges at the start of my junior year of high school, I was battling between civil engineering and secondary education as my major. Since both are completely different majors, it was a rather difficult choice, but I finally decided to go with secondary education around the start of senior year, right before I sent in my applications. The main driving factor that led me to choose secondary education as my major was my favorite teacher, Mrs. Lapham. I started having classes with her my junior year, and after 5 different classes with this teacher we had quite the bond. She had made my love for learning so strong that it inspired me to want to do the same in the future.

I chose social studies as my concentration for multiple reasons. One major reason is that Mrs. Lapham was a social studies teacher. She was my teacher for AP Human Geography, Sociology I and II, World History, and Psychology. Since I had such a good bond with this teacher, my love for these subjects only grew, making me want to pursue it even more. Before I started here at UMF, I wasn’t entirely sure if I wanted to be a secondary education or elementary education major, even though I applied right into the secondary education program. My decision to stick with that solidified when I began working at my high school cross country coach’s running camp the summer before my freshmen year here. All the campers were going into 9th to 12th grade, so I found I did have knack with working with high schoolers.

I think my learning style will greatly effect how I teach my future students. I will probably feel very comfortable with my beach ball personality, being ready to have many class discussions. I want my students to be comfortable with each other so they are more willing to partake in the discussions. But I also need to consider the students that are not beach balls like me. Not every student likes discussions. I will probably include projects and class work that can be done individually or in small groups to accommodate for other learning styles. I want to have a more rounded teaching style than my personal learning style.

My biggest fear of entering the classroom is failing. Failure has always been one of my biggest fears, and I don’t want to fail my students. I would feel worse failing them than failing myself. But I’m hoping and expecting a great experience over all. I’m extremely excited to get out in the classroom, and I have been since I had started my journey to be a teacher.

I expect this to be one of my biggest stepping stones into the world of teaching. I want to learn as much as I can about myself as a learner and educator so that I can apply it to my future classrooms. I’m expecting this to solidify how much I want to be an educator. I’m excited to get the first couple of tools to my teaching tool kit.